

WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT IT? VIEWS ON TIMELY TOPICS.

[THE WASHINGTON HERALD will give space in its Monday issue each week to the views of its readers on subjects of general interest. Communications must bear the names of the writers and should not exceed 300 words in length. The publication of such matter does not necessarily imply that the opinions expressed are shared by this paper.]

Fight Science with Science.

Editor The Washington Herald:
Concerning the efforts of those who are advocating the preservation of the public wells, led by Mr. J. Fraise Richard, it is surprising that these citizens have not hit upon the proper way to present the carrying out of the purpose of the Commissioners to close the wells. It is not by public meetings and intemperate denunciations of the Commissioners. It is inconceivable that our benevolent board of autocrats have any other interest than the public interest. They are not in partnership with any of the dealers in trademark water, nor with the saloon-keepers, nor with the ice companies. They could not well disregard the solemn official decision of their scientific advisers that the water of the wells is impure, is full of typhoid bacilli, etcetera. They would hardly be justified in acting upon the plain, practical testimony of consumers, who have used the well water for a generation without a case of typhoid or other infectious diseases having developed in their families. To such testimony the Commissioners would likely answer that these consumers may have been immune; or possibly that because the wells were not contaminated ten, twenty, or thirty years ago it does not follow that they are not so now.

The question is one of fact, and what the fact is depends upon expert testimony. Inasmuch as the organisms in water are dangerous to human life or microscopic in dimensions we can have no microscopic testimony except of microscopists and chemists. The layman isn't in it. He can only testify that he and his family have thrived on the water for ten, twenty, or thirty years. The fact is, however, many bacteria to the cubic centimeter there are in the water.

We all naturally sympathize with the well-water consumers, and hope they may be able to stay the hand of power. The writer is disappointed, as in a residence of forty years he has not used well water. The old Potomac water is good enough for him. What he wishes to suggest to the advocates of the continuance of the public wells is to fight the devil with fire. Let them use the same weapons of science that they use to attack the public wells. Let them use the same weapons of science that they use to attack the public wells. Let them use the same weapons of science that they use to attack the public wells.

This is apparently the only chance for the champions of the wells. They are down and out unless they pit scientific opinion against scientific opinion. And although the Commission may be governed by the opinion of their official scientific advisers, holding that their deliverance is ex-cathedra, and placing the same reliance upon their official scientists as the Attorney General upon his, it is not likely that they will give sufficient authority to outweigh the testimony of private chemists of equal reputation backed by the lay testimony of a large number of the users of the water. The experiment at least is worth trying.

W. J. MORRIS.

The Bible and the World.

Editor The Washington Herald:
In the Washington Herald of last Monday Mr. David Eccles made many moving statements which show that he has great faith in everything called geology or science. Among other things, he states that geology attests that death, thorns, thistles, and crawling serpents existed on this earth millions of years before the advent of man. This much may be true, but the kind of geology which may have faith in a proof that the Bible is not of God is wholly unreliable. One among many illustrations that might be given, showing how erroneous are the calculations of many scientists (so called) was presented by an able Bible student as follows:

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Intolerance Not Christlike.

Editor The Washington Herald:
One of the saddest features which confronts the student of the history of Christianity is the spirit of intolerance so frequently manifested by the professed followers of Jesus Christ toward those who differ with them. A few instances in Christ's life are indicative of His attitude toward those who were in the wrong and of those who refused to believe in or follow Him.

L. KARPPEL.

The Route to Great Falls.

Editor The Washington Herald:
Accepting a friend's invitation, I made one of an excursion party to Great Falls recently. Starting at the foot of the staircase near Aqueduct bridge, we bowed along at a jog trot sort of railroad rate, occupying a full hour in making the distance of fifteen miles or so up the river. The beginning and the end of the route is through a partly wooded region, but the intermediate space is open country, from a mile to a mile and a half back from the Virginia side of the river. I have always felt that, aesthetically speaking, the backdoor running and location of this railroad was a mistake. And not even the "cyclone development" (which a blue-stenciled car "states" is "sweeping over this region") is yet able to convince me that my instinct was at fault. Of course, I am not speaking here from the viewpoint of high finance, but rather from that of the great sight-seeing public in Washington and elsewhere, who do not particularly appreciate this arid region for its developmental capacities, nor the interest of the Virginia small farmers and others requiring such a route.

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of the Mississippi River, and some geologists began to calculate how many thousands of years might be indicated by the many feet of silt, slime, etc., covering the skeleton, and fancied they had a very valuable sample of prehistoric man. But finding later, several feet below the skeleton, parts of a "hatbox," such as was in use on the Mississippi less than fifty years ago, it completely upset the calculations, and relieved mankind of "another proof" that the world is hundreds of thousands of years older than the Bible teaches. H. PINNEY.
729 Gleason place, Washington, D. C.

The Sun, Moon, and Other Things.

Editor The Washington Herald:
The most important things to us are current events, and I see nothing more progressive or practical than the space given to letters from the people in the newspaper.

Any institution that would serve the people completely must accommodate all the people all the time sufficiently, and at the same time any individual separately. John the Baptist is the greatest man. He is "more than a prophet," and "a greater has not been born of woman." The greatest thing concerning all the people is mentioned in the prophecies of Isaiah, xlviii:23, "Then the moon shall be confounded and the sun ashamed," and Joel, ii:31, "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood."

No one has said why John the Baptist is greater than other men. No one has said what the meaning of the "sun" and "moon" is in the prophecies. They concern all people on whom the sun and moon shine. The good word of the word of God has not yet been served.

Knowledge has been increased until to-day we have a greater knowledge than was ever before possessed by any people. Men have better facilities to-day, and more sources to draw from than was ever before available. Scientists have a better scientific knowledge than was ever before attained. The "higher" critics have done a greater work than was ever before accomplished in their line. I challenge them all to say what the meaning of the "sun" and "moon" is as used in the prophecies of Isaiah, xlviii:23, and Joel, ii:31. I will put the meaning I have by direct inspiration against their combined effort, together with all other authorities which the people have. This test will demonstrate the truth about the spiritual world and its inhabitants. It will show that the one who showed me the meaning is more familiar with social affairs in this life than any of the people who live here. R. G. SOMERVILLE.
Washington, D. C.

Early Closing Movement.

Editor The Washington Herald:
During the hot summer season there is no subject which should more closely engage the attention of the general public than the observance of the early closing rule by all stores in the District. Quite a number of stores are already carrying this rule into effect; but there are a number of shops in which retail girl clerks are compelled to stand behind counters all day long, and in some cases until 9 o'clock on Saturday night. This should be frowned upon by the public and condemned in every pulp.

Very few of these girls are paid more than \$4 a week. It is in the name of justice and fair play, as well as from the humanitarian standpoint, that I appeal to the people of Washington to vigorously protest against such treatment of one of the hardest driven classes of workers in the city. L. KARPPEL.

Biblical Information Wanted.

Editor The Washington Herald:
As there has been some little discussion of an article written by Eliot H. Thomson entitled "Hell Not in the Sun," published in The Washington Herald July 8, I would like to ask a question or two relating to certain statements made therein. His proper application of certain Scripture references indicates familiarity with the good old text-book to which these questions relate.

L. KARPPEL.

A Few Words on Graft.

Editor The Washington Herald:
Graft—what is it? A would-be President declares against the revision of the tariff, to secure for his election the support of the trusts, monopoly, money power, what is graft. A jury, some members of which are large employers of Italian labor, and wish to keep their good will and services for commercial gain, renders a verdict of murder, without hanging, in the case of kidnapping and child-murdering "Black Hand" Italians; that is graft. A candidate for public office, a public officer, or one for him, with his knowledge, seeking support by whatsoever means, with promise of reward; that is graft. A husband who has labored sixteen hours, or only seven, for family support, and is tired, feeling like home for comfort and rest, and has to praise his wife for her good house-keeping before he can sit down to the supper table in peace; that is graft. A wife who has made herself stunningly beautiful in milliner-made dress requires her overworked and financially-strained husband to praise her skill and beauty before he has gotten half a nose indoors, or is subject to accusations of love-dying; that is graft. The wasting of time and thousands in investigation of the act and motive of the President in the Brownsville affair to gain negro votes; that is graft.

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I am rejoiced that you take interest enough in city affairs to make the people's wrongs known in your valuable paper. The communications of Mr. Oyster are both interesting and instructive. From Mr. Oyster's statement, the Commissioners admit that they have autocratic powers, and they appear to think that they exercise these powers with good judgment, but all the different departments of the District government and the majority of the employees seem to think that this same power is delegated to them, and the ordinary citizen feels into the building where they are free to exercise said power.

W. J. MORRIS.

Commissioners Acted Wisely.

Editor The Washington Herald:
In my humble opinion the Commissioners acted wisely and in the interest of all the people by ordering the shallow wells in the District closed. The public health deserves first consideration at the hands of those clothed with authority to administer our affairs, and as our city has been in somewhat bad repute of late because of typhoid fever epidemics, the criticism and slurs hurled at the Commissioners because of their action are unjust and unworthy of